

*Remarks of Elizabeth Barr
Chemistry Teacher
Vernon*

**Before the Education Committee
ON S.B. No. 24, AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS**

February 21, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Stillman and Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee.

My name is Elizabeth Barr, and I'm a chemistry teacher in Vernon CT. I am here today to comment on Senate Bill 24, Section 29, and teacher tenure. It seems this bill is creating a very complicated system under which to gain tenure. The new proposal suggests tenure will have to be gained and re-earned based on evaluations from administration. From experience, my evaluations have literally been "cut and pasted" from year to year by my current administrator. I have sat in her office and watched her copy her comments from last year and paste them into my current year's evaluation. I have also seen her leave class over 20 minutes prior to the end of class but then write comments on my closure for the lesson based off what she observed last year in my classroom. I can only assume with a more complicated evaluation process the lack of a thorough and accurate evaluation will be even more evident in schools. It truly scares me that my livelihood in terms of level of certification, and salary will be based off these processes.

To rectify this, I suggest that the current tenure statute remain in place with some modifications to the process. Specific suggestions for doing this can be found in The CEA's "A view From the Classroom" proposal at <http://cea.org/viewfromclassroom/assets/pdf/6-Reforming.pdf>. I believe in holding teachers to high standards in the classroom, but with the new proposal based off subjective evaluations, this will do nothing but create instability in our profession and scare away talented people from entering the profession in the first place.

Please strongly consider the proposal by CEA when making your decisions on this enormous issue that will impact education in this state for years to come.